ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for fast active scanning and an Access Point apparatus that reduces the delay in

5 convention active scanning. The method includes the step of giving an AP higher priority to

transmit a probe response than is currently known. This priority comes at the delay of transmission

of the probe response, so preferably the probe response can be delayed by just the time that the AP

needs to prepare the response plus the time, if any, for the frame already in the air to finish.

According to the invention, a method can include steps for: sending a uni-cast probe request

10 message by an (STA) 238, 248, 268 on a particular channel having at least one Access Point (AP)

258, 278 in communication therewith; receiving by one particular (AP) 278 the probe request

message sent by the (STA); sensing by the particular (AP) 278 of a point coordination function

(PCF) interframe space (PIFS) 325 of the particular channel; and sending by the particular (AP)

278 of a probe response message to the (STA) 238 in response to the probe request message after

15 the PIFS. As the probe request is uni-cast, there is no need for a backoff interval as only one AP

will respond. Since normal traffic utilizes the longer DIFS space plus backoffs to avoid collisions,

the AP will always be able to respond to a probe request of scan faster than other items can respond

on the channel, thus giving the AP priority when sending the probe response message.

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